

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

The present invention relates to a steering wheel for a vehicle, in particular, a steering wheel comprising a ligneous surface material, and to a production method therefor.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24, as follows:

For example, the steering wheel 13 is manufactured by the following processes. First, ligneous thin plates, on which an adhesive is ~~[[are]]~~ applied, are laminated and adhered to form the ligneous plywood layer 17. After that, the ligneous plywood layer 17 is adhered to the surface decorative material 16, which is prepared in advance by pressing using a die while the ligneous plywood layer 17 and the surface decorative material are formed. Then, the end surfaces of the formed product comprising the ligneous plywood layer 17 and the surface decorative material 16 are cut such that the end surfaces are abutted and adhered, and thereby the surface material 15 having a semicircular cross section is prepared. That is, in order to abutt and adhere the formed product, the end surfaces which make the joining portions 18 and 18 are cut, and thereby the surface material 15 is prepared. The prepared surface materials 15 and 15 are arranged so as to cover the core 14. The joining portions 18 and 18 of the surface materials 15 and 15 are adhered, the surface materials 15 and 15 and the core 14 are adhered using the adhesive layer 19, and thereby the surface materials 15 and 15 and the core 14 are then integrated. After that, the steering wheel 13 is prepared by applying the coating film 20 on the surface of the surface materials 15 and 15.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, as follows:

However, when the steering wheel 13 is subjected to high humidity for a long time, because the adhesive used in the surface material 15 is thin and moisture

permeates easily toward the interior of the surface material 15, in some cases, the moisture [[in]] causes the interior of the surface material 15 to swell and cracks are generated in the joining portion 18 between the surface materials 15 and 15, as shown in FIG. 10. As a result, a problem arises in that the coating film 20 is split along the joining portion 18 and crack 21 is generated in the steering wheel 13.